

II. REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 25, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are allowed, and claim 10 is rejected.

At this time, claim 10 is amended, and claim 11 is canceled. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. For example, claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11, which has been canceled. As such, Applicants submit that no new matter has been added and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims, and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of this Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Visca et al. (EP 1 006 168). In light of the amendment to claim 10, Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 10, as presently amended, incorporates the limitations of dependent claim 11, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowed. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 10 to remove the formula (B).

As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Visca et al.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event this response is not timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00051.

Respectfully submitted,

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